

THE MOUNTED **RIFLEMAN**

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

October 2008



***Providing assistance
to the Iraqi people***

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN



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Cavalry Regiment**

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The Mounted Rifleman is the official publication for the Troopers, Noncommissioned Officers, Officers, family members and friends of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Views expressed herein are those of the authors.

The Mounted Rifleman is the primary Command Information tool of the Regimental command leadership. Its mission is to foster esprit de corps, enhance morale and keep troopers informed throughout the Regiment.

ABOUT THIS

ISSUE

As we continue to push through this deployment, the regiment's success is becoming evident. The amount of violence faced while conducting missions has decreased dramatically and the Iraqi Security Forces have moved into the lead in the fight for their country against the insurgents.

While it is a great sign for Coalition Forces, the fight is still far from over and our Troopers continue to assist the ISF when needed to ensure the citizens of this country are safe.

Most of the stories that you will see are focused more on the partnership with the ISF and how we are all working together. This helps give you a better idea of what our Troopers are doing on a daily basis and will give you a better idea of the success the Brave Rifles are achieving.

- The Editor

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Visit the 3d ACR online for more news

The Mounted Rifleman and other photos, news releases and information is available on the 3d ACR's Web site: http://www.hood.army.mil/3d_acr

Visit the site often as the information is updated regularly.



3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Cover photo by Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Left/Cover: Sgt. 1st Class Ileanette Pla from Medical Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3d ACR, helps move an injured Iraqi civilian into a military ambulance. The injured citizens were brought to FOB Marez from Tall Afar after a suicide vest attack. The patients were taken to the Combat Surgical Hospital while they awaited transportation further medical care.

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Photos by Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, speaks to Troopers after an award ceremony on Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, Oct. 29. During the event, five of the Thunder Squadron units received the Combat Action Streamer, one Soldier was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, eight Soldiers were presented Purple hearts, and one Soldier was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

Troopers and families of the Regiment, as the Regiment begins to close out a remarkable tour in Iraq, every leader and Soldier must continue to work hard as we continue to conduct combat operations in Ninewah Province and areas south of Bagdad.

We must continue the momentum by providing the units replacing us with the best transition and understanding of the area as they occupy the battle space.

The Iraqi elections are on the horizon and therefore, we must ensure the Iraqi Security Forces are able to provide the right security to ensure a fair election is executed.

We cannot lose sight of the continued partnership we maintain with the Iraqi Security Forces and the continued effort needed to make them better for the

future. Keep after it!

The RCSM and I will be visiting your formations to talk about the importance of redeployment and the reintegration of Soldiers and families at Fort Hood, Fort Carson and Fort Gordon.

Our priorities for the rest of this deployment are below:

- Regimental leaders will continue to be **ENGAGED** with their Soldiers throughout the redeployment and post-deployment period. This is not negotiable.

- A seamless transition with the incoming unit; providing all experiences and observations you have made while deployed.

- **SAFETY** is one of the main priorities. Redeployment is the most dangerous part of a unit's deployment. Watch out for **COMPLACENCY**!



Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR, presents a coin to Sgt. Donald Cook from Dragon Company, 2nd Sqdrn., 3d ACR, during his visit to Sabre Squadron Soldiers in Diyala Province, prior to the squadron's movement north to rejoin the Regiment in Mosul.

- A zero defect REINTEGRATION period of all individual Soldiers and family members.

We are not done in Iraq; the fight continues. I am providing this list of priorities so that as you look beyond the current fight, briefly, you will already be thinking about those specific areas that will affect you as an individual Soldier, leader or leader of Soldiers.

We must continue to take care of each other and provide the over-watch that is critical to Soldier safety and situational awareness.

The RCSM and I continue to be amazed at what each of you has accomplished.

We have had an opportunity to watch you grow, not just in the last 12 months, but since we formed this team 29 months ago.

You have accomplished a lot and continue to do so as you complete another tremendous chapter in the history of our great Regiment.

Brave Rifles!
Michael A. Bills
72nd Colonel of the Regiment



Above, Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR, speaks with Lt. Col. Steven Cook, commander, Muleskinner Squadron, 4th ACR about Iraqi Army Logistics during a battlefield circulation at Al Kisik.

Below, Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR, walks through the Al Karama neighborhood with an Iraqi commander during an Iraqi Army led joint operation in Mosul.



A message from the XVII CSM of the Regiment



Photos by Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Col. Michael Bills and Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, commander and command sergeant major of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, discuss the situation on the ground during a battlefield circulation in Mosul. The 3d ACR leaders were surveying the progress of an Iraqi-led joint operation in the city.

As the start of the redeployment process draws near, Soldiers are naturally starting to think of home.

We are beginning prepare for this task by developing our packing lists and identifying Soldiers for additional duties required to move all of our personnel and equipment.

However, we cannot let this distract us from our mission. This is the most dangerous time for Soldiers if they are not focused and the enemy is aware of this.

We have kept the enemy off balance, taken away areas they once controlled, and have showed them that direct contact with us leads to death or capture.

We have been successful, but this success can be easily reversed if we allow ourselves to lose focus and let the enemy regain their balance.

The momentum in this fight is ours and we must continue to move forward and maintain the edge that has allowed us to help the Iraqi Security Forces hold the cities and villages in this province.

We owe it to our fallen Troopers and those

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, command sergeant major of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, gives a fist bump to an Iraqi Soldier after presenting him with a coin during a battlefield circulation in Mosul.



who have been injured during our deployment to keep attacking the enemy and not allow them the opportunity to strike at us.

You must keep your eye on the enemy and remain focused. The insurgents will not fight you on conventional terms because we dominate every engagement - lethal and nonlethal. However, they are only waiting for us to show a loss focus or vulnerability and they will strike.

I have talked about discipline, standards, safety and respect in past columns and our leaders have continually stressed the need to maintain situational awareness and to avoid complacency.

During this phase of the operation, it is imperative that every leader is fully engaged.

The NCOs in this regiment and our brother units have ensured that the discipline and standards that make our Army the best in the world are being enforced.

The Soldiers have made this job easier by doing the right thing and acting as professionals.

As I have said many times before, I expect you to Be professional, Be polite, and

Be prepared to kill.

As we begin to make plans for redeploying, our priority is to continue to take the fight to the enemy every day and deny them any chance to establish a foothold.

I have absolute confidence in your ability to maintain our advantage and ensure that we leave behind this province better than we found it.

**Brave Rifles!
RCSM**



Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, command sergeant major of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, greets Soldiers in Dragon Company at Combat Outpost Jag North during a battlefield circulation. The RCO also presented the Troopers with coins during the visit.

REMINGTON

Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Capt. William Nance
Remington Troop Commander

Hello again from Mosul. September was a busy month for Remington Troop.

We started out the month by preparing our nonessential vehicles to return to the states. The Troopers put forth a great effort setting and maintaining the standard for vehicle turn-in. Along the way, we also took care of some driver's training for our M1068 command tracks. All involved had some fun, and nothing (important) was run over.

Finally, we were able to turn in our light tracks to AMC to begin the reset process. It truly felt great to empty out a portion of the motorpool.

Another major project of the month has been the 100 percent inventory of all troop property. Any inventory of an organization like RHHT is a tremendous undertaking, but the Troopers responded brilliantly. As one pointed out, "we're getting good at it."

This is the third 100-percent inventory of the troop in six months, so everyone has the drill down by now. The supply room led by Staff Sgt. Williams and Sgt. Wheatley continue to crack the whip on property accountability, and so far, things are proceeding smoothly. The only hiccup has been the amazing multiplying radios of the RS6 shop. However, finding radios is always vastly preferable to losing radios.

One problem that has arisen

recently is the issue of computer safety. We have had too many computers infected with viruses due to improper computing practices. We must tighten up on this issue or lose many basic abilities. Remember, your actions affect not only just your computer, but everyone on the network.

The regimental staff continues to perform wonders, deciphering orders from higher, running multiple VIP visits, as well as coaching our Iraqi allies on the proper way to run brigade and higher level staffs. Thanks to their efforts the Iraqis have made tremendous strides in setting the conditions for improving security in Ninewah Province.

The summer heat has finally broken and led to much cooler days and nights. As one Remington Soldier put it, "I can almost walk from my CHU to the office during the day without sweating!"

We're not quite ready to break out the Gortex jackets and skull caps quite yet, but we're happy to just have an overcast day (that's not a dust storm) every now and then.

As we near our one year anniversary in theater, Soldiers in the troop continue to keep finding ways to relieve stress. Fantasy football is a major draw in the TOC, and major gatherings occur at all hours of the night to watch games in real time on AFN.

Finally, updates on the Redskins and Cowboys have become permanent features of the regimental BUB on Sunday mornings.

Until next time, Remington Troop continues its mission, committed to seeing it through until completion. Thank you all for your support to our Soldiers.

Brave Rifles!
Remington 6



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Sgt. James Luker puts specialist rank on newly-promoted Spc. Earl Davies, during the RHHT promotion ceremony on Forward Operating Base Marez, Sept. 1.

TIGER

1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame
Tiger Squadron Commander

Soldiers, families and friends of Tiger; as we begin our 11th month of operations in Iraq, I continue to be optimistic about our progress and the great work our Soldiers have accomplished.

There are still many challenges in the months ahead, but it very clear that the squadron has established the base of security and local governance to give the Iraqi people hope for their future.

Our success comes from the platoon and individual Soldiers who have endured this difficult mission; they tenaciously execute combat operations with their Iraqi partners. Their effort has neutralized a persistent insurgent network that plagued the Tigris River Valley in this critical AQI support zone.

Not only have we taken initiative with our tactical fight, but we have also established the foundation for a functioning local government that responds to the needs of the people in the community.

Recent humanitarian assistance programs, employment training seminars, as well as medical assistance have shown the population that we, and more importantly, their government, are working on their behalf for a better future.

Tiger Soldiers have gallantly executed this mission through the heat of summer and under the most arduous and demanding conditions.

"Our *success* comes from the platoon and individual *Soldiers* who have endured the difficult *mission*; they *tenaciously execute* combat operations with their Iraqi *partners*."

**-- Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame
Commander, Tiger Squadron**

Day after day, they have not faltered. Whether on a combat patrol or civic engagement, we have provided the example of American strength and resolve in an area that was recently plagued by desolation and despair.

With the intense demands of deployment and combat operations, our Soldiers have done all this and sustained their fighting spirit. Their effectiveness in

combat has been a result of their efficiency in balancing mission, training and mentoring, as well as morale and Soldier care.

As always, Tiger stands ready to accomplish any task assigned.

Our enduring work and sacrifices will long be remembered through our own ranks and by the people of Iraq.

**Teeth of the Regiment!
*Tiger 6***



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from HHT, 1st Sqdrn., 3d ACR, work on an engine in a motorpool on Forward Operating Base Q West.

SABRE

2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Paul Calvert

Sabre Squadron Commander

It is great to be back home with the Regiment!

After spending 12 months in Diyala Province, Sabre Squadron is extremely proud to once again be standing in the Regiment's formation with its colors to our front. The road to Ninewah was a long and tough fight for the squadron, but we are extremely proud of what we as a formation have accomplished together. The squadron has closed on LSA Diamondback and we are off and running with our newly assigned mission.

On Sept. 1, Sabre Squadron began operation Sabre Pursuit III in eastern Diyala along the Iranian border. Still conducting reconnaissance and area security operations, the squadron left Lion Battery south of Balad Ruz with two IA Battalions and an IP ERB to retain a once held insurgent support zone that we had fought so hard to clear and hold.

The actions of the individual Troopers as well as the platoons of the battery were truly herculean. Fox and Grim Troops established patrol bases along the border and began operations that continued up to our RIP/TOA with 5-1 CAV, 1-25 ID. Their focus was to identify and disrupt cross border smuggling networks that were moving resources into Iraq to be used within insurgent support zones as well as to erode enemy resources that were cached throughout the depth of their battle space. Both troops wasted little time and almost instantly cauterized cross border movements through active reconnaissance, security patrols and establishing control along movement corridors into Iraq.

During a cordon and search operation on the first day of operations, Fox Troop captured a key HVI that led the primary smuggling cell within the Nidah tribal region who also was linked to leading an IED/kidnapping/murder cell. A few days later and much to the joy of the entire squadron, Fox Troop's efforts enabled an ODA team to capture two key leaders of an IED cell that have been directly tied to the emplacement and triggering of the IED that killed Capt. Mallard, Sgt. Anderson, Spc. Burkett and Albert on March 10.

While Sabre Pursuit III was a tremendous success for the squadron, it also came at a great loss. On Sept. 24, during a vehicle interdiction mission by our QRF from Rattler Troop, we lost Capt. Michael Medders when an insurgent detonated a suicide vest at the point of capture. Four insurgents were killed during the incident and Spc. Ford and Spc. Sena from Rattler Troop were wounded during the attack. Many across our Regiment knew Capt. Medders and his loss had a tremendous impact on us all. We will cherish his memory and be proud that we had the honor and privilege to serve at his side. Spc. Ford is recovering back at Fort Hood and Spc. Sena is back serving in our ranks.

As I think back on the individual and collective actions of the Troopers and our formations during our fight in Diyala, there are a few things that stand out in my mind. I am absolutely overcome with emotion and a deep sense of pride in the men who make up our squadron. Our Troopers are motivated selfless servants that have consistently taken care of one another through good times and bad. These men of excellence have bonded together as a team forming the basis of our organization that has routinely proven to be flexible, adaptable and committed to accomplishing the mission no matter how hard it may be.

Our leaders are some of the best I have served with. They take care of their men and inspire them to be the best. There is a willingness to grow and learn as individuals and as a team that has prevented complacency and enabled us to systematically mature as a formation. The Troopers and our formations inspire me every day and I am honored to serve amongst the ranks.

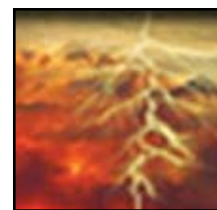
That is what makes coming home to the Regiment so important. The men and our formations within the squadron are emblematic of the men, formations and squadrons that make up our Regiment. Our Regiment and the men who serve under its colors are the greatest our nation has to offer and the personal and collective courage of those within the ranks will inspire those who follow. It's good to be home!

Sabre Ready!

Sabre 6

THUNDER

3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Keith Barclay
Thunder Squadron
Commander

Family, friends and Troopers, the crackle of Thunder rose in the early evening air and rolled through the dark September skies over Mosul.

To veterans, the ominous clouds and cool breeze were the first signs of the changing seasons here in Iraq. Thunder storms marked the beginning of the transition to fall and the break of the exhausting, exasperating summer heat.

The storm brought the first rain drops in nearly six months, quenching the desert thirst and releasing the smell of summer rain on hot pavement. The familiar aroma encouraged distant memories of home and loved ones; the quick snap of lightning returned us to our purpose here in Iraq. Signs of change are all around us.

The actions of the Thunder Squadron Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces during the first 11 months of this deployment fundamentally changed the nature of Ninewah Province.

Main streets that were the scene of hard fighting months ago are now marked by construction equipment conducting sanitation and road repair projects. Small shops line the streets competing to feed the workers taking advantage of the increased economy.

Troops continue to find ways to help the populace. They augment the reconstruction effort by assisting with road repairs using 43rd CEC equipment to scrape

roads clean of dirt and rubble and concrete trucks to fill and smooth potholes.

Bustling markets are the result of greater mobility and security in the city. A sentiment of hope lingers among the people that the increase in security will stay and foster a steady economy. Iraqi Security Forces remain sturdy and driven.

September was the scene of emboldened Iraqi army and police conducting large division-level operations in Mosul's old town neighborhoods previously considered insurgent strongholds.

The Iraqi army's courteous and disciplined conduct won the approval of the local populace. In the west, Eagle Troop supported a 3rd Iraqi Army Division clearance operation that blanketed the northern Jazeera Desert.

Iraqi Security Forces continue to assert their dominance over the insurgents through increasingly independent operations.

Soldiers watch proudly as their counterparts succeed. It is a sign that we are leaving a lasting impression and proof that we are accomplishing our mission.

September marked the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, characterized by a cycle of daytime fasting, nighttime feasting, and increased prayer. Devout Muslims refuse food or drink during the day to demonstrate religious discipline and feast at night. The routine creates a reverse schedule of drowsy days and active nights. Soldiers, as exacting professionals, adjusted to meet the cultural

patterns. Iraqis, well-known to be generous hosts, held meetings without the customary chi tea or sheep kabob lunch. Soldiers responded by delivering cards and presents to breed cheer during the religious holiday. Young Soldiers learned the value of good will as their actions transcended cultures.

We continue to work with our Iraqi brethren to root out the last struggling elements of the insurgency. Together we are succeeding in denying the enemy the ability to use Ninewah Province as a safe haven.

The anniversary of the September 11th attacks in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania reminds us of our duty to the people of the United States and spurs us on with greater determination.

Our Iraqi counterparts are increasingly moving toward independent operations, commanding and controlling multiple large operations in Mosul and the Jazeera desert in September. Iraq Security Forces have solidified their gains after establishing a series of combat outposts and have begun to develop independent patrolling habits to control their areas. Relationships gained during these steady missions produce valuable intelligence and leads to significant finds.

In September, the 3rd Mosul Emergency Reaction Battalion and Killer Troop, found a sizable cache that included rockets, explosives and a large armored

See "Thunder," Page 34.

LONGKNIFE

4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Todd Royar
Longknife Squadron Commander

An appropriate theme song for the squadron this deployment is "On the Road Again." Several months ago the squadron moved from Taji, supporting Multi-National Division-Baghdad to Baghdad International Airport, where we are now supporting Multi-National Division Center.

Within the next month additional portions of the squadron will again move to Al Kut (southeast of Baghdad) as well as prepare for some of our replacements move to Tallil. The Troopers of Longknife are definitely not bored.

Fortunately, current operations within MND-C are quieter than what we had previously experienced in Baghdad. This is a good sign.

While IEDs and other events still occur, the number of events is at an all time low in our area of operations and speaks to the success of not only the Coalition Forces, but also the Iraqi Security Forces who daily are taking a more active role.

In fact, many of the provinces within MND-C have now been, or will be turned over soon to Provincial Iraqi Control, which squarely puts the Iraqis in charge of their own security.

In Longknife we are also doing our part to help continually improve the security situation. This includes not only providing aviation support to joint operations conducted by coalition and Iraqi forces, but also to partnering with Iraqi air force helicopter units. At Al Kut, the squadron will partner with a newly-formed Iraqi helicopter unit, also in the process of moving there.

As security continues to improve, the Iraqis are starting to take over more of their basic services. On Oct. 11, the squadron formally handed over one of the large hangars at Baghdad International back to the Iraqi government.

This hangar will soon be renovated to accommodate civilian passenger airplanes operated by Iraqi Airways. We expect to hand over many of the other facilities that we currently use on Baghdad International Airport to the Iraq government upon our departure from theater.

Working with the Iraqis, or citizens of any other nation for that matter, it reminds us of the rights and privileges we sometimes take for granted as American citizens.

In August and September, nine Troopers from Longknife were granted their citizenship. Their service to the nation during a time of war, when they were not even citizens themselves, is truly remarkable.

As we near the final few months of the deployment, we look forward to rejoining the regiment. Although all three of the headquarters that the squadron will have worked for (12th Aviation Brigade from Germany, Task Force 49 from Alaska, and the 449th Aviation Brigade from the North Carolina National Guard) have treated us very well, we are proud of being a part of the regiment and are ready to come home.

Finally, thanks to all the support from the families, friends, and rear detachment back home. Knowing that support is out there sure makes it easier for all of us to get the mission done and safely return home.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lindsey and I appreciate everything that both the Troopers and families do. We could not be more proud of the entire squadron.

Longknife 6



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Lt. Col. Todd Royar, commander, Longknife Sqdrn., stands in front of Soldiers from Nomad Troop during the unit's change of command ceremony. Capt. Adam Heppe (front left) assumed command from Capt. William Griffith (front right).

MULESKINNER

Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Steven Cook
Muleskinner Squadron
Commander

The weather has started to change here on FOB Marez and temperatures are dropping into the 70s in the mornings, though they still reach close to 100 in the afternoons.

The change in the weather indicates the end of summer and the onset of fall. Other indicators that the squadron is getting closer to the one year mark of the deployment are the start of football season and the baseball playoffs.

As we continue to conduct missions in support of the regiment and the other units within our area of operations, such as Military Transition Teams, we are also starting to ship some equipment back to the United States for induction into reset programs in preparation for training next summer.

To date, the Troopers of Packhorse Troop have conducted a total of 574 Missions to 36 different Combat Outposts (COPs) and Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) within Ninewah Province.

The Supply and Transportation Troop is living up to their name as they continue to successfully move all classes of supply around the area of operation, ensuring the squadrons within the regiment have the materials required to conduct their missions.

This month, Capt. Soffos welcomed 1st Sgt. Price to her command team while saying thank

you and good luck to 1st Sgt. Jones. First Sergeant Jones was an integral part of the Packhorse command team and we are sure that 1st Sgt. Price will be just as successful.

Down in the motorpool, Maintenance Troop continues to keep the readiness rate of the equipment in the squadron over 90 percent, while doing their part to also keep the regiment's readiness rate one of the highest in the division.

*"We must continue to **fight** **complacency** and ensure that we **finish** the deployment completing all missions to **standard**, ensuring that we all **return home** together."*

*-- Lt. Col. Steven Cook
Commander, Regimental Support Squadron*

Blacksmith is also competing in the Army Maintenance Excellence competition and should learn the results within the next few months. With the readiness rate they have been able to maintain, even with the high operational tempo here in Iraq, we are sure that the troop will represent the squadron and the regiment well.

Over in the SSA, Chief Ricketts and her crew have been busy improving the facilities and evaluating the parts on stock, ensuring they have only what is required.

Not to be outdone, Medical Troop continues to provide outstanding medical care to the Troopers of the squadron as well as the regiment. While the specialists like Capt. Faul, our physical therapist, and Capt. Hatcher, our dentist, travel to other COPs and FOBs to ensure that the Troopers in areas away from FOB Marez have access to the services they provide, the other physician assistants take turns conducting Combined Medical Engagements

to assist our Iraqi brothers in arms with providing support to the local populace.

At LSA Diamondback, or Marez East, as some people call it, the Troopers of 89th Chemical Company continue to run one of the best detainment facilities within the theater of operation.

The facility is continuously being inspected by our higher headquarters and outside agencies and each time Capt. Cahill and his team receive accolades while

See "Muleskinner," Page 34.

1-8 Infantry Bn.

3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division



Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
1-8 INF Commander

Well the temperature is beginning to finally cool down as the Fighting Eagles and Iraqi Security Forces continue to bring security to east Mosul.

The insurgency continues to be eliminated from the city and the population is steadily becoming more receptive to security efforts. Frequent raids and patrols against the insurgency are disrupting their efforts to bring chaos and death to Mosul.

Attacks have become less frequent, and as a result, the local population has seen security in the city that has not existed in a very long time.

This increase in security has led to an increase in the general safety for the local citizens of Mosul.

The efforts and progress of the Fighting Eagles and Iraqi Security Forces have been exemplary, although there is still work to be done. The basics remain an essential asset to our success, which include TLPs and PCC/PCIs for all missions.

Likewise, our area of operations is continuously improving with many ongoing engineering projects. These projects include construction missions such as ongoing builds and enhancements to already existing structures.

I am confident that the success we have earned thus far will continue throughout the rest of the Fighting Eagle's deployment.

September is the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Prayer and fasting are primarily observed in order to teach patience, sacrifice, and humility. Muslims recognize this time to try to purify themselves

through self-restraint and good deeds. Unfortunately, insurgents do not truly recognize this holy time and continued to conduct ruthless terror tactics of murder and destruction.

It is the mission of the Fighting Eagles and Iraqi Security Forces to do whatever is necessary to disrupt these terrorist activities and to protect those who truly observe this holy month. Fasting will only take place from true dawn until evening, whereupon practicing Muslims will break their fast. This meal is called the Iftar. The Fighting Eagles and our ISF partners hosted two Iftar dinners, conducted food distribution in AO Eagle, and delivered Eid Al Fitar gift packages throughout AO Eagle. This gesture reinforces the point that security is the first step in rebuilding neighborhoods and communities.

Steady perseverance and due diligence from the Fighting Eagles and our Iraqi counterparts will eventually lead to a secure, democratic government in Iraq while simultaneously protecting our nation. I am proud of the Fighting Eagles and their performance in their mission.

I would also like to express my appreciation for all of the support that the Fighting Eagles have received. Your contributions are and continue to be invaluable.

This is a challenging time for us all and it has taken great endurance and fortitude to have made the progress up to this point.

I would ask that everyone maintains their morale and vigilance in order to finish this deployment triumphantly. Keep up the great work and continue to look out for one another.

Fighting Eagles, Strike Fear!

“The increase in *security* has led to an increase in the general *safety* for the local *citizens* of Iraq.”

-- Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
Commander, 1-8 Inf. Regt.

94th Engineer Bn.

18th Engineer Brigade



Lt. Col. Luke Leonard
94th Eng. Bn. Commander

As the deployment moves along, our ties to the Iraqi army have become stronger. For the past few months, we've had the privilege of working with the Iraqi army on a variety of new missions. We may be an engineer unit, but we provide a wide array of capabilities to the battlefield.

During the last few weeks we have built roads, repaired road craters, and conducted medical assisted visits hand in hand with some of Iraq's finest soldiers – the engineer regiments of the 2nd and 3rd Iraqi Army Divisions.

Out west, the Soldiers of the 103rd Engineer Company (Horizontal) participated in a joint construction mission with Iraqi engineers to build a technically challenging road for an outpost. We helped the Iraqi army to build a road over a deep draw that would have prevented even the most rugged of vehicles from crossing. The ingenuity of the Iraqi engineers is amazing as they bridged a deep ravine using salvaged concrete and pipes.

Apart from this, our very own Wolverine 7 has visited units from the Iraqi army and has imparted his own wisdom. Recognizing the differences between the two units, he led a week-long seminar that built upon shared commonalities — important aspects that make great leaders in any military unit. Besides



Courtesy Photo

A Soldier operating a dozer from the 103rd Eng. Co., works with an Iraqi engineer in a bucket loader at a joint road construction project west of Mosul.

developing the leaders of the Iraqi army, it gave us better insight to their protocols and procedures.

In another area, our physician assistant, Capt. Mark Short, has taken his medical team and doctors provided by the Iraqi army to visit remote villages where our partnered Iraqi unit might face difficulties in treating both common and rare ailments.

We've been greeted warmly during each of these missions by the Iraqi populace, which, in turn, boosts the Iraqi army's acceptance by the local people.

Finally, the 59th Engineer Company has made great strides with our counterparts on route clearance techniques. After months of training, we have finally started patrolling the streets of Mosul for IEDs together. Meanwhile, the 83rd Concrete Detachment has been constantly working with Iraqi engineers in the area of crater repair.

With equipment that we've helped them procure, the Iraqi army is filling craters on their own and Iraqi citizens can drive along the roads with increased safety as the army has reduced the amount of hiding places for Improvised Explosive Devices.

All of these aspects to the Iraqi partnership have been a great experience. It's always great to do our job here in Iraq, but it's even better when we are teaching the Iraqis how to do it after we have departed.

As always, we're proud to serve with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Brave Rifles.

Wolverines!



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Mark Short (center) and Spc. Yesenia Albiter examine an Iraqi child during a routine check-up to provide medical aid residents of a local village.

IPs, infantrymen conduct joint ops

Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson
11th PAD

QUDS, Iraq – One ... two ... three; the signal is given and with a fierce kick, the door crashes open.

Before the door makes contact with the adjacent wall, Emergency Response Battalion 4 members flood into the living room of a house in a small village in eastern Mosul, Iraq, Sept. 17.

The ER 4 is one of several special tactics units within the Iraqi National Police force. ER 4 is comprised of approximately 100 Iraqi police.

ER 4 applied the training provided to them by the Company B “War Machine” from 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, during a clearing operation.

“We’ve trained units on vehicle searches, marksmanship, dismounted patrolling and detainee procedures,” said Capt. Tony Massari from upstate N.Y., who is the commander for Co. B, 1st 8 Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. “I’m confident in the ability of the

ISF. They are taking initiative; they’re getting out there, planning missions and ordering clearances. Every now and again we’ll get word that the IP just conducted a clearance operation.”

The Co. B Soldiers helped clear several homes, however, their main mission was to provide guidance and overwatch security while the IP cordoned off the neighborhood and searched homes.

“Today was hands-off for us,” said 1st Lt. Douglas Bogdanowitz, from Fort Worth, Texas, who is a platoon leader with Co. B. “We’re here to provide security while the IP conduct business as usual.”

Coalition Forces are stepping back to allow the IP to step up and regain control of their neighborhoods.

The Iraqi people respond better when they see one of their own trying to restore the order and peace in their village, said Spc. Eric Allen, a native of Elizabethtown, Ky., and a radio operator for Co. B, 1st 8 Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

“The Iraqi citizens like to have the presence of the police around; it makes them feel a little more secure,” said 1st Lt. Zachary Brown, a platoon leader with Co. B, 1st 8 Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

Although no munitions or weapons caches were found, the ER 4 detained five individuals listed on their high-valued individual list.

Today was the beginning of a solution, said Massari. “The IP are starting to take control of their streets. Today was a good day, and the IP continue to work for a better future.”



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson
Above, Spc. Eric Allen of Elizabethtown, Ky., a radio operator for Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, keeps watch while patrolling the streets of Quds in eastern Mosul, Iraq, Sept. 17. The Soldiers assisted the Iraqi police during a clearing operation.



Left, Sgt. Eric Dupuy and 1st Lt. Zachary Brown, both with Co. B, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., walk past an IP truck during a joint operation in eastern Mosul, Iraq, Sept. 17.

3d ACR units see improvement in Mosul

Spc. Cynthia S. Teears
11th PAD

MOSUL, Iraq - As the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment continues its deployment, the Soldiers are starting to see the improvement throughout the city of Mosul, even in areas once considered the worst in town.

Killer Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR, occupies Combat Outpost Rabi, located on the western side of the city. The troop patrols Route Tampa, which was one of the most dangerous places to be in the city when the unit first arrived. Now, the route has improved noticeably and signs of normalcy are returning.

"Tampa, which the Iraqi's call the Iraqi Highway, is a main route through Mosul and the country," said Staff Sgt. William Greenwood of Killer Troop. "When we first got here, you were guaranteed to get shot at. Now it is much safer."

During the past few months shops have been opening up every week and they have seen more pedestrians and vehicle traffic in the area, he said.

"Before, the traffic would clear out when they saw the U.S. troops coming," Greenwood said. "The vehicle traffic would empty out of

the street and nobody would come out for fear they would be caught in the crossfire, simply because we were there."

He said the Iraqi people feel content because of the increased security in the market areas. The Iraqis feel safer coming out, going to the market and walking around now, said Greenwood.

The Iraqi and the U.S. Army units still sometimes find improvised explosive devices in the area and the check points get attacked occasionally, but it is not an everyday occurrence as it was before, he said.

"We got here in November and started the combat outpost," said Sgt. Nicholas Massarotti, a cavalry scout and gunner with Killer Troop. "The unit was fired at constantly.

"There was a whole bunch of heavy equipment here and scattered trash and broke-down vehicles, he said. "We lived in our vehicles and then moved into tents after we had cleared out enough space for them."

When the Iraqi army unit first came to the COP, the Iraqi soldiers wouldn't stay at the post if the Killer Troop was leaving to go on a patrol, said Massarotti. Killer Troop started taking the

Iraqi soldiers out on missions and coaching them on how to conduct raids from the intelligence gathered and what to do when reacting to a possible IED.

The Iraqi army started gathering their own intelligence and the joint forces would conduct raids on the intelligence, he said. Eventually the Iraqi army started going out on their own, conducting their own raids on their gathered intelligence.

Like the Iraqi army, the Iraqi police in the sector have also played an important part to the developing security of Route Tampa.

"The Iraqi police are supposed to make sure their area is safe and develop contacts," said Massarotti. "We come by and check on their progress and encourage them."

All of these units working together have made the area more secure and now the residents along this route are working to rebuild their neighborhoods.



Photos by Spc. Cynthia S. Teears

(Above) A highway crew unloads part of a curb while doing road repair work along Route Tampa in Mosul, Iraq.

(Left) Spc. Cory Shea, a cavalry scout with Killer Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, stands guard at a COP.

Center helps Iraqi women develop skills

Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson
11th PAD

QARAQUSH, Iraq – After decades of male domination, Iraqi women are eager to prove to themselves.

Just ask Jaghreed Youysf.

As a young professional in the village of Qaraqush, which is near Mosul, Youysf has made a name for herself and her organization.

After years of gaining financial aid, and with the support of her family, Youysf opened the Women's Development Center in her village.

"This, in and of itself, is a major feat," she said, adding that there was resistance from the local government and religious organizations. This, however, only fueled her commitment to helping women.

The center provides sewing and cosmetology classes to advance Iraqi women.

"There is a need for independent women," she said,

adding that the majority of women who come to the center are widowed or are internally displaced.

Since the center opened in 2005, Youysf has had to limit enrollment due to the lack of machinery and supplies. However, this recently changed in September thanks to the U.S. military, Provincial Reconstruction Team and the people of Huntington, Ind.

After U.S. Forces learned of her center, they immediately jumped in to help.

Maj. Wilbur E. Kline, commander, Company C, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, said that with "more resources she could expand her outreach."

Through Kline's strong partnership with his hometown Rotary Club in Huntington, Ind., he received more than 400 pounds of fabric and sewing supplies donated by members of that organization and the Huntington

community. These supplies will benefit a lot of people, he said.

"There are a lot of single and widowed women who need to develop a skill for revenue," Kline said.

So far, thousands of women have stepped through the center's doors to take advantage of what is offered, Youysf said.

In addition to the supplies and fabric, the Provincial Reconstruction Team donated \$5,000 to the center after visiting the facility earlier this year.

"She has a plan and she's driving this place," said Robert Jachim, an economics section chief with the PRT.

The center also provides computer classes for small children, English classes for those wishing to further their language skills, day care services, and a large building on the premises that can be rented for special occasions.

"In the summer we offer classes for students who need help in different subjects," Youysf said.

As the number of women who continue to come to the center in search of a way to improve their lives, Youysf said there is a need to expand and offer more courses and facilities for the women and their families.

"I'd love to have a gymnasium for children so they have a safe place to play," she said. With growing numbers at the center, Youysf often has family members help out when they can.

"My nephew is my right-hand man," she said, adding that she thinks the people working around her will better appreciate the role of women. "I hope my nieces and nephews have a greater respect for Iraqi women," she said.



Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson

Huntington, Ind. native Maj. Wilbur E. Kline, commander of Company C, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, presents a Huntington Rotary Club banner to Jaghreed Youysf at the Women's Development Center in Qaraqush, Iraq, Sept. 4. The club and Huntington, Ind. community donated more than 400 pounds of sewing supplies to help Youysf teach her classes to widowed and internally displaced Iraqi women.

Iraqi army, 3d ACR senior NCOs meet to discuss Soldier training

FOB MAREZ, Iraq – The top NCOs in the Iraqi army in western Ninewah Province and 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, met to discuss training and daily unit operations during a conference Aug. 11-13.

The event, hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Hunt, the senior NCO for Tiger Squadron, 3d ACR, focused on bringing the senior NCOs together to discuss various issues the IA is having, talk about different tactics, techniques and

procedures and share ideas with each other, Hunt said. This was also a chance to build camaraderie and trust in the NCO corps.

During the conference the leaders also toured several of the squadron's staff sections and shops such as maintenance, medical and the motorpool to see how Coalition Forces conducted daily business.

They also took a tour of the Iraqi Warrior Leader Course and met the soldiers while they conducted who were training.



Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood, Multi-National Division – North and 1st Armored Division command sergeant major (center), speaks with Iraqi army command sergeants major and sergeants major during the event.

Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood, Multi-National Division – North and 1st Armored

Division command sergeant major, also attended the event as a special guest.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Hunt, command sergeant major for 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, meets Iraqi Warrior Leader Course soldiers during the conference. The senior Iraqi army NCOs from western Ninewah Province and 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, met for a three day conference to talk about leading and training soldiers and conducting daily operations.

Courtesy Photos



Above, The senior NCOs pose for a group photo in front of an M1A2 Abrams tank.

Below, Master Sgt. Mark Jackson, Tiger Squadron, speaks to the group about maintenance issues.



BRAVE RIFLE



Courtesy Photo

An AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter from Longknife Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, flies across the evening skies over Baghdad. The squadron is currently stationed at Baghdad International Airport.



Pfc. Sarah De Boise



Pfc. Sarah De Boise

Above, From right, Maj. Chad Arcand from 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division M1TT, and his interpreter, speak with Iraqi army soldiers during a reconnaissance mission in the neighborhood of Al Wada, Mosul, Iraq, Aug. 22.

Left, Two Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, play soccer with a group of Iraqi boys during a foot patrol in the neighborhood of Al Kayrawan, Mosul, Iraq.

ES IN ACTION



Courtesy Photo

Pvt. Ronney Ross, a carpenter and masonry specialist with the 77th Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, adds a panel to a floor during night construction on COP Rabi in Mosul, Iraq, Aug. 18.



Courtesy Photo

Above, Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, roll out to conduct an area recon mission east of al Hadr.



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Above, An Army medic helps transfer injured Iraqi civilians to military ambulances at FOB Marez. Soldiers from the UNIT and Regimental Support Squadron, 3d ACR, helped transfer and take the patients to the combat surgical hospital while they awaited follow-on transportation.

Right, Sgt. Eric Dupuy, a team leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, pulls security in an occupied house while the Emergency Response Battalion 4 and Coalition Force Soldiers conduct clearing operations at street level in Quds, located in the eastern region of Mosul, Iraq, Sept. 17.



Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson

Soldiers help Iraqi border police hone skills

Spc. Cynthia S. Teears
11th PAD

COP HEIDER, Iraq – Mounds of loose dirt span the horizon for miles. A group of Soldiers move tactically through the darkness while looking for signs of illegal border crossing.

In the distance, a group of lights shine from a nearby Syrian town. Soldiers look for vehicles moving along the border and report suspicious activities.

These night patrols are part of a five-day course at the Iraqi Border Police Leaders Academy at Combat Outpost Heider conducted by U.S. Army Border Transition Team 4231.

The program is designed to be a train-the-trainer course in which the attendees take this instruction back to their units and train the other border police.

The Iraqi Border Patrol officers are taught everything from AK-47 disassembly and assembly, dismounted and mounted patrolling, how to react to enemy contact, how to look for signs of and react to personnel illegally entering the country, said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Motter, operations sergeant for Border Transition Team-4231, also known as “The Guardians.”

The course also teaches them the overall staff functions, what the staff members do and how they do it, he said.



Photos by Spc. Cynthia S. Teears

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Motter of U.S. Army Border Transition Team 4231, demonstrates how to use arm signals to get the Soldiers on line during a tactical movement. Motter is one of the classroom instructors at the Iraqi Border Police Leaders Academy at Combat Outpost Heider.



Iraqi border police conduct a morning physical training session with their U.S. Army advisors.

“Do you see the vehicle first or hear the vehicle first?” asked Motter during classroom instruction. “You hear the vehicle first. Little things like that can save Soldiers’ lives,” Motter told the officers.

The training is very good, said an IBP officer attending the course. The officer, a first lieutenant who has been a member of the IBP for five years, said he has seen the security in the area increase and the relationship with the U.S. improve because the IBP officers understand what the U.S. Soldiers are trying to do.

“Thank you very much for the training,” the IBP officer said. “It is good information for us to train our soldiers.”

“You can see how we interact with the soldiers,” Motter said. “It’s like night and day from when we first got here. We try to help them coordinate with the Iraqi army and the Iraqi police also so that it’s a joint effort; and we have had some successes. They are taking steps. It’s progress.”

Civil Affairs works to improve life for Iraqis

Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson
11th PAD

MOSUL, Iraq – The morning sun shines upon a now familiar scene in the war-ridden city of Mosul.

Shoppers crowd the sidewalks as vendors sell their goods out of tattered storefronts.

Long ago, Mosul was known for its art and theatrical productions, said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Anderstrom, a linguist assigned to Company C, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Today, Mosul is trying to rebuild from the devastation and destruction left by Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

Earlier this year, the city of Mosul contained one of Iraq's highest concentrations of insurgents.

After several successful operations like Operation Lion's Roar, the insurgents started to flee Mosul. With the increased security throughout the city, the 415th CA, based out of Kalamazoo, Mich., now meets with city officials and local leaders to plan reconstruction efforts.

"Once security is established in Mosul, economic growth can develop; civil society can develop," said Anderstrom of Mishawaka, Ind.

For economic growth to take place, a new base must be re-established, said Maj. Donald Vaha, the 415th CA civil affairs team chief.

"The Middle East, in general, is going through a huge population boom," said Vaha, a Kalamazoo, Mich. Native. "So, there is a vast majority of their population that is under the age of 20. In terms, trying to engage those young

"It's more about *helping* a nation *help itself*."

**-- Staff Sgt. Jonathan Anderstrom
Co. C, 415th Civil Affairs Bn.**

people and get them into positive activities will give them a positive outlet, he said.

"Hopefully, by engaging the younger people in those neighborhoods it will build a stronger bond to the community," Vaha said. "You want to engage the youth to try to minimize the influence of parties that are trying to take advantage of them. It's more about helping a nation help itself."

"The thing about the U.S. Army is that we are over here seven months, eight months, a maximum of 15 months at a time,"

said Anderstrom. "These people, these organizations that we're developing will be here the rest of their lives. If we can influence that piece of the puzzle, we've implemented change for the entire city (and) province; possibly the entire nation.

"So, that change is life-long if we can implement that," he said. "It doesn't matter if we leave in 15 months as a unit. It doesn't matter who comes in next. If we can implement that change at the grass-roots level, civil leadership will last well past the time we leave here."



Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson

Maj. Donald Vaha of Kalamazoo, Mich., a civil affairs team chief and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Anderstrom of Mishawaka, Ind., both assigned to Company C, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, discuss starting a youth soccer program in Mosul with a manager in the Ninewah Ministry of Recreation, Parks and Youths Sports.

Sabre Squadron operation paves way for successful future in Diyala Province

**Staff Sgt. Mary Rose
Mittlesteadt**
11th PAD

DIYALA PROVINCE, Iraq
— Both Iraqi and American troops across the eastern Diyala Province leaped into operations to rid the area, known to be a safe haven for al-Qaeda and other militant

individuals.

Operation Saber Pursuit, which began in late July and continued into August in the area south of Balad Ruz, Iraq, about 21 miles from the Iran border. The operation kept troops fully engaged in clearing villages, finding caches, defusing improvised explosive devices and

working with the local villagers in the region.

Balad Ruz is a rural area with approximately 100,000 residents. Many farms span the vast area and crops make up much of the livelihood in the small outlying villages.

According to Lt. Col. Paul T. Calvert, commander of the U.S. ground troops in the eastern Diyala Province and 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, the operation opened new avenues for successful security and economic growth for the agricultural rich area.

Operation Saber Pursuit followed other joint operations designed to clear al-Qaeda from its rural strongholds.

In May, Iraqi Security Forces with coalition support launched Operation Saber Tempest. This operation began just hours after a female suicide bomber faking a pregnancy walked into a crowded market and detonated her explosives, causing massive destruction. That incident was quickly followed by another suicide bomber targeting the emergency responders. The bombings left 35 Iraqi civilians, including many women and children, dead and 65 more wounded.

For the past three months U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi army troops, and Iraqi police from the area have cleared and then held villages formerly tyrannized by al-Qaeda cells.

Operation Saber Pursuit used the same type of tactics that proved successful during Operation Saber Tempest, said



Photos by Spc. Opal Vaughn

U.S. Soldiers with 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, provide security in a village in the eastern Diyala Province of Iraq, in support of Operation Saber Pursuit, while other U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi soldiers with the 5th Iraqi Army Division, secure the village. The operation was a combined effort to rid the area of insurgent groups and deny a safe haven for further attacks on the Iraqi people.



Soldiers with Sabre Squadron pass through a village in eastern Diyala Province in support of Operation Sabre Pursuit.

Maj. Cameron Cantlon, executive officer for 2nd Sqdrn., 3d ACR.

Operation Sabre Pursuit scored multiple caches and intelligence finds and has continued to rid known insurgency out of the area,

he said.

Both Operation Sabre Tempest and Operation Sabre Pursuit have been conducted hand-in-hand with 5th Iraqi Army Division and the local Balad Ruz Iraqi police force.

The Iraqi units and 2nd Sqdrn., 3d ACR Troops have worked together throughout the past several months, conducting two joint air assault missions and numerous ground missions and joint patrols.

“Through months of combined operations, we have forged a strong partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces,” Cantlon said. “Our Iraqi brothers fight honorably and have proven they are truly a capable fighting force able to secure their country and the values of their people.”

(Editor’s note - Since this article was released, the unit has turned over it area of operation in Diyala to the ISF and have to rejoined the 3d ACR in Ninewah Province).

Iraqi repair project expands on U.S. short term fix

Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak
11th PAD

QAYYARAH, Iraq – After the main bridge over the Tigris River connecting Mosul and Baiji was damaged from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in November last year, the U.S. Army provided needed assistance to keep traffic flowing.

The Army initially put in a temporary dry span bridge over the damaged portion of the bridge so U.S. security forces could continue its logistical missions, said East Lansing, Mich. native Capt. Andrew M. Chegwidien, assistant operation officer for 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

However, that solution was deemed unsafe due to the shifting of the bridge’s foundation. The bridge could also not support the civilian traffic, which was critical since this route was a main thoroughfare for commercial

vehicles, so the U.S. Army installed an assault floating bridge south of the former crossing. The main roads were rerouted to the floating bridge, which enabled military, commercial and civilian traffic to travel the route without a significant detour.

With a temporary solution in place, the Government of Iraq then took over to develop a plan for a permanent solution. After going through a bidding process, a local contractor was hired to clean up the debris and repair the damaged bridge span.

In less than a year, the bridge repairs are well underway and the bridge is scheduled to re-open in the spring.

“It’s expected to finish in April of next year,” Chegwidien said.

Master Sgt. Alfred R. Ronneburg, operations noncommissioned officer for 1st Sqdrn., 3d ACR, said this project was a good example of how things are progressing in Iraq. The U.S.

Army helps with the short-term fix and the Iraqis take over and come up with the long term solutions.

“They paid for it, they planned it and now they are executing it,” he said. “They are re-establishing essential services to their people.”



Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak

The main bridge over the Tigris River connecting Mosul and Baiji, which is near Qayyarah, was heavily damaged by an insurgent vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. After the U.S. provided a quick fix, the Iraqi government funded a local contractor to repair it.

Leadership Training

Tiger Squadron's course teaches soldiers to take charge

Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak
11th PAD

QAYYARAH, Iraq – As the Iraqi army continues to grow, soldiers within its ranks are finding themselves in leadership roles; many for the first time.

To better help lead their subordinates and peers, soldiers in the Iraqi army's 2nd Division are enrolling in the Iraqi Warrior Leader's Course at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

Under the supervision of 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, about 900 soldiers have graduated from the three-week course.

The course is designed to train, teach and mentor Iraqi soldiers in army fundamentals such as rifle marksmanship, first aid, map reading and guard duty; and in leadership responsibilities like the law of war, effective communications, the military decision-making process and the mission essential task list, said IWLC cadre Sgt. James A. Vos, a Sully, Iowa native with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Sqdrn., 3d ACR. The course will train them in about 30 critical tasks.

For the Iraqi leadership, this course is proving to be a real benefit for its soldiers.

"The training is going on as we like, and the soldiers are doing



Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak

Soldiers in the Iraqi Warrior Leader's Course march to the dining facility on Forward Operating Base Q-West, Aug. 18. During the three-week course, the Iraqi army soldiers learn more than 30 different tasks to help develop their leadership skills.

exactly what we tell them to do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hamdan Fadhil Sulayman, the IWLC commandant with 3rd Battalion, 6th Brigade, 2nd IA Div.

The IWLC cadets conduct physical training in the early morning and participate in training activities throughout the day, Vos said.

Competition is built into the training to help build platoon cohesion, he added.

"We do a platoon competition, which makes it more fun for the Soldiers," said IWLC cadre, Staff Sgt. Marcos A. Castro, a Manati, Puerto Rico native with 2nd Sqdrn., 3d ACR, who is currently attached to HHT, 1st Sqdrn. 3d ACR. "Through the competition, we see the soldiers doing their best."

"The training is tough, but we want to give them that good, solid base," Vos said.

A recently-erected training house, dubbed the Shoot-House, was designed to teach the soldiers better ways to clear homes.

"It is important for the Iraqi army to learn how to clear houses," Sulayman said. "This is their job."

Referring to room clearings, Sgt. Shehab Ahmad Nori, a soldier with 3rd Bn., 8th Bde., 2nd IA Div. said, "It's very important for all soldiers to learn this kind of training. I'm a very aggressive soldier, so when I leave here, I'll be sure to teach other soldiers what I have learned to help get the Iraqi army forward."

Nori is just one of few who were chosen to lead the rest of the cadets during the training.

"You can tell who has combat experience," Vos said. "They act as peer instructors for the rest of the students. They're able to relate their experiences to the rest of the



Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Jenkins, commandant of the Iraqi Army Warrior Leader Course at FOB Q-West, Iraq, congratulates Iraqi army Pvt. Khaled Jress Jadoo for winning the class 09-08 marksmanship award during the IWLC. After completing the course, the soldiers attended a graduation ceremony before going back to their units Sept. 19.

students.”

Besides the Shoot-House, the IWLC’s campus consists of many other buildings including classrooms and barracks for the soldiers and cadre alike.

“This is all about them. This is their academy. These are their rules. These are their instructors,” Vos said. “These instructors are some of the greatest, some of the best I have ever seen.”

On scene, U.S. Army cadre helps only by facilitating a safe training environment for the soldiers during the course.

“We’re giving them the ability to take on a more active role,” Vos

added. “These guys are doing the combat operations while we do the observations. We’re trying to

make them self-sufficient.”

Upon graduating from the IWLC, soldiers will have the tools needed to go back to their units and better train and lead their soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Jenkins of 1st Sqdrn., 3d ACR and U.S. Army commandant of the IWLC.

“They’ll be able to take what they’ve learned back to their units and train other noncommissioned officers and soldiers,” he said. “And the course helps them to have more pride in their service, and it shows them that what they’re doing is very important for themselves, their families and their country.”

“Toward the end of the course, the soldiers tend to have a little more discipline, more knowledge, and more confidence in themselves,” Vos said.

“I feel very happy about the soldiers going through this training,” Sulayman said. “We have to rebuild our new army. It’s our job to move the Iraqi army forward.”

(Sgt. Keith M. Anderson, 16th Sustainment Brigade also contributed to this article.)



Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

The September graduates of the Iraqi Army Warrior Leader Course at Q-West, Iraq, shout and sing their motivation to Iraqi Army Col. Hazim Serhan Hussein, deputy commander, 7th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division

Ironhawk Troopers team up with Iraqi army to search for caches



Photos by Spc. Cynthia S. Teears

Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers convoy with Iraqi army soldiers west of Mosul to conduct a cordon and cache search mission in several area villages. The IA soldiers led the mission and conducted most of the searches while the 3d ACR Troopers provided security.

Spc. Cynthia S. Teears
11th PAD

MOSUL, Iraq – Iraqi army and 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers conducted a search for weapons and explosives west of Mosul Aug. 13.

Soldiers from the Iraqi army and Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR, swept through several villages west of the city searching for unauthorized weapons and explosives or weapon caches.

“Today we were clearing an area west of Mosul,” said 1st Lt. Jeremy Glosson, a platoon leader with Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR. “The Iraqi army goes there once a month to search the area for caches and weapons. It is mainly a farmland and fishing market area.”

While this was a joint operation, the Iraqi army soldiers conducted most of the searches. The Ironhawk Troopers mainly provided security and assisted with a search if required.

“The mission today was very productive,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Lewis of Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR. “We made a presence with American and Iraqi forces working together, showing progress to the Iraqi people; how we work together.”

This success of the IA during this mission is a result of their constant training and steady improvement.

“This was a step in the right direction,” Glosson said. “The Iraqi army needed minimal assistance from us and they took the lead for the mission.”

The villagers accepted the IA soldiers into the area and offered them flat bread as they conducted their searches. The Iraqi army will continue to periodically conduct these types of missions in the area to show their presence, build a good relationship with the residents and keep insurgents from moving into the villages.

These security measures and relationships are vital to help maintain the safety of those who live in the villages and the surrounding area of Mosul, said Lewis.



Soldiers from Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR, and Iraqi army soldiers discuss the plans for the cordon and cache search of local villages west of Mosul.

Focus, standards can prevent accidents

Peter Higgins
Safety and Occupational
Specialist

It has been long deployment and while we are nearing the end, we are not there yet. We cannot relax and let our guard down.

Accidents can still happen, and we can still lose Soldiers or equipment. Accident reports here in the regiment, as well as records from the Army Combat Readiness Center and the Center for Lessons Learned at Fort Rucker, Ala., indicate that units will have a spike in accidents and incidents during the final days of a deployment.

How can we break this cycle? How can you be sure that your battle buddy goes home just like you?

The key is maintaining situational awareness and holding everyone to the standards that we all learned.

Take a moment and think of all the things that you have learned and compare it to what you have heard about the accidents that have occurred during this deployment.

Are you or your buddy taking shortcuts? Are you doing things differently now from how you were taught? Some of these unsafe shortcuts can have horrible results that can injure or even kill Soldiers.

Below are a couple of the common accidents or incidents that occur, but can be prevented.

Negligent Discharge. Reports

indicate that this act increases for units as their tours come to an end.

What causes it? Is it a lack of attention or failure to adhere to standards? Clearing your weapon is a simple procedure and one that Soldiers have performed countless times during this deployment.

However, even the simplest of actions can result in an accident if the Soldier doesn't pay attention to the details or gets in a hurry and takes a shortcut.

Personal Injuries. As odd as it may sound, personal injuries are another type of accident that increases as units get ready to go home.

What is even more of a surprise, is that many of these are from sports or horseplay. Think before you head out to exercise. Use the correct sports equipment, watch out for your buddy and stay focused and serious.

Just because you saw somebody else do it does not mean it will work for you. If you do not know how to work out properly, ask for advice from others who are experienced in the activity.

There are also numerous charts posted throughout the gyms and exercise areas that show Soldiers how to properly perform exercise routines for all of the equipment.

Horseplay has no place during physical fitness training. Most sports or physical activities have inherent risks involved with them and when you are not paying attention or doing things properly,

that only increases the risk of injury.

Army Motor Vehicle Accidents. Everything from a simple fender-bender to loss of life in a rollover has happened during this deployment. Simple procedures can save lives. There are certain things you should always check before you move out.

PMCSing your equipment – do it per the TM and do not skip procedures or do it from memory.

Vehicle Dispatch – Is the vehicle dispatched in your name? Have you driven this vehicle or the scheduled route before?

Ground Guides – Is a ground guide required with the vehicle? Can you see them? Do you understand what the guide is telling you to do? If you ever lose sight of your ground guide or do not understand what he or she is signaling, stop and make sure you are both in sync.

Convoy Travel – What is the convoy speed? What is the catch up speed? What is the convoy interval? How about all of those drills you keep going through?

Paying attention to the task at hand, no matter how small or simple, can be the difference between a safe mission or an accident, or worse.

Good or bad, the habits you pick up now will stick with you. Not only will they be with you while you continue to serve in the regiment, but the habits will stick with you wherever you go.

Be smart and be safe. Let's all go home together.

FRGs begin to prepare for holidays, homecoming

Fall is upon us here in Texas and the regiment's FRGs are keeping busy. Now that families have adjusted to the kids going back to school, FRGs are holding fall activities.

With redeployment getting closer each day, FRGs are joyfully planning redeployment events. Many unit FRGs are forming committees to organize banner making, barracks setup, decorating, and welcome home parties!

For those who leave the area to celebrate the upcoming holidays with family and friends, please remember to give rear detachment the contact information about your out of town visit.

We're almost to the home stretch in the deployment. There are just a few more months to go. As we prepare for the last few months of the deployment, please make sure that your FRG and rear detachment have the correct family contact information, especially if the family has been away from Fort Hood during the deployment. We can't contact you to let you know when your Soldier is returning if we don't know how to get in touch with you.

The regiment would like to recognize our exceptional volunteers from the 2nd Quarter of 2008. On Sept. 19 we honored the following Volunteers of Merit: Dominique Buehler from Remington Troop; Kelley Helton from Bandit Troop, Tiger Squadron; Katie Pawlosky from Grim Troop, Sabre Squadron; Nancy Norris from Havoc Troop, Thunder Squadron; and Elizabeth Chivers from Nomad Troop, Longknife Squadron. The

Volunteer of the Quarter was Carola Abel from Muleskinner Squadron. Thank you for all of your determination and dedication to the unit's Soldiers and families and for a job well done.

Remington Troop combined business with pleasure for their September meeting by holding it at the post bowling alley. They had a great turnout and discussed ideas for upcoming events. Sadly, Remington bid adieu to FRG co-leader Tiffany Jocuns.

Thank you Tiffany for all of your enthusiasm and hard work, you'll be missed. Stepping in to assist as new co-leader is Brittany King. Brittany has been an active member of Remington Troop for a while and will no doubt be a great addition as a leader. Remington is also busy planning activities for the holidays and redeployment.

Tiger Squadron began gearing up for redeployment by including some reunion training at their September FRG meeting. Tiger is now including reunion training at every FRG meeting.

The Tiger holiday party is set for Dec. 6. The party will be a movie event at Palmer theatre. Tiger Squadron is also beginning to plan a welcome home bash for Tiger Troopers. The date and time is still to be determined. There are still a few Tiger Deployment T-shirts available for purchase. Please contact Tiger Rear Detachment if interested.

Sabre Squadron closed the summer by holding a squadron movie day at Palmer Theatre with a private screening of "Kung Fu Panda." They had a wonderful turnout and the movie

was a hit with everyone. Sabre is also organizing committees for redeployment events.

They are currently planning a December holiday party, a squadron ball, and a barracks setup. Sabre's FRG holiday party is scheduled for Dec. 6; location to be determined. The Sabre squadron ball is scheduled for Feb. 13 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

Thunder Squadron is getting back on schedule with troop and squadron FRG meetings. The Thunder Deployment T-shirt sale was a success and is now complete. Both Havoc and Killer Troops are holding their own individual Troop T-shirt fundraisers now.

Thunder is currently planning a squadron movie event at Palmer Theater. Thunder members are participating in the "Sea of Support" project that consists of getting yellow tutus to deployed Soldiers' daughters to wear for welcome home ceremonies. Thunder is also currently working on single Soldier barracks project.

Longknife Squadron held its quarterly squadron-level FRG Meeting Aug. 19. Lt. Col. Royar was home on leave and spoke to Longknife family members about the squadron's move to BIAP, current status of the squadron, and some redeployment information.

He also brought a video of the Soldiers to share with the families. Thanks to the Lake Whitney and Hewitt VFW's, Longknife Squadron's children in attendance were given a "back to school" backpack and school

See "FRG," Page 31.

Tiger Sqdrn. medic saves Iraqi policeman

Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak
11th PAD

QAYYARAH, Iraq – As a first generation American, Howell, Mich. native Spc. Roberto Andres Torres joined the military at 17 as a way of stepping into his dream; to work in the medical field.

Torres, a medic with Crazyhorse Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, said he joined the Army as a stepping stone to reach the goal of becoming a nurse anesthetist.

For now, Torres is honing his skill by providing medical care for his fellow Soldiers and Iraqi counterparts.

Stationed at Combat Outpost

Crazyhorse, Torres has dealt with many medical emergencies, but in August, that training would earn Torres the title of hero.

In the early hours of Aug. 14, Torres was awoken by a member of his unit.

“They came in my room telling me that an Iraqi police officer had been shot,” he said. “I got my aid bag and waited outside for their convoy to arrive,” he said. “Once they came, I noticed there was blood coming from the soldier’s neck so I inserted a nasal pharyngeal airway tube in his nose.”

After applying the necessary, immediate care, Torres stayed with the victim, monitoring his vital

signs until a medical evacuation aircraft arrived.

With Torres’ quick thinking and medical expertise, he was able to save the police officer’s life.

“Some see me as a hero, but I just see this as me doing my job,” he said. “I get a sense of pride out of this.”



Pfc. Adam Blazak

Spc. Roberto Andres Torres.

“FRG,” From Page 30. —

supplies. The backpacks were either green or gold and had the 3d ACR Bug on them along with phase “I’ve got my hero’s back.” Currently the FRGs are holding troop-level monthly meetings.

The next squadron-level FRG event will be the December holiday event at the Salado Christmas Tree Farm. It was a huge success last year and members at the August meeting voted to again have it there.

Muleskinner Squadron families have been making great strides to increase the Muleskinner Fund for homecoming activities. Muleskinner has hosted two yard sales that have added close to \$900 to the fund.

Muleskinner families came out for the squadron FRG meeting Sept. 30, and at that time, volunteers were recognized for their hard work and efforts. Currently, FRG members

from HHT and 89th Chemical Company are stuffing goody bags for their Soldiers and sending them forward to their troops.

All the troops will be coming together for a Muleskinner Fall Fest on Oct. 25. The children are encouraged to come in costume for prizes and lots of fun. Individual troop tables and booths will be set up for each child to visit and win a prize. This event should be a great opportunity for the squadron’s families to come out and have a spooktacular time.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new additions to the regiment’s family readiness/rear detachment team. Since our last update we’ve had three new Family Readiness Support Assistants (FRSA) join our family. We are pleased to welcome Dianna Gavin to Tiger Squadron, Jacey Loudon to Thunder Squadron, and Amanda Rosener to Muleskinner Squadron. These ladies hit the ground running and have already made a

wonderful addition to regiment in the few months they’ve been here.

Lastly, we would like to recognize some very special Troop FRG leaders. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) holds an annual conference in Washington DC in October.

This year’s conference included an additional forum for Family Readiness. The regiment was asked to select troop level FRG leaders. The regiment’s attendees were Sonia Mejia from Dragon Company, Tiger Squadron; Mayra Cardenas, from Fox Troop, Sabre Squadron; Renee Ramon, from Air Raider Troop, Longknife Squadron; and Cecelia Fruik from Blacksmith Troop, Muleskinner Squadron.

These ladies are a prime example of all the hard-working, enthusiastic volunteers throughout the regiment and we are extremely proud to have these four leaders representing the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment at this national conference.

Patience is key during reintegration

Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Holland
Regimental Chaplain

Greetings and blessings from your regimental religious support team here in Mosul, Iraq, to all our 3d ACR family and friends.

As you read this, we near the one year mark in our deployment and thank God for all of the regiment's accomplishments both here on the front lines and back on the home front. It is nothing less than "Brave Rifles" dedication to successful mission accomplishment (along with much faithful prayer) that has brought us this far and will carry us through the short months remaining.

As we continue to focus on day-to-day missions, (both here and with the rear detachment) it is important for us to keep our head in the game, but at the same time, it is necessary to begin thinking about and planning for our redeployment. Many such plans are already underway logistically to ensure smooth and safe movement of the many moving pieces of the regiment. There is also the need for all of us to prepare mentally and emotionally for reintegration and reunion.

Thoughts of going home and being reunited with loved ones can fill us with joy and excitement. Experience tells us, however, that a short "honeymoon period" can be quickly followed by the stress of reality as we integrate back into the "real world."

Deployment changes things for both Soldiers and family members. Change can be a challenge whether we view it as for better or

worse. But change is something we face throughout life and can be positive if we are prepared for it and have a positive attitude about it. Before we leave Iraq, every Soldier will attend mandatory redeployment briefings. The same type of briefings will also be made available for family members back home.

Following are some of the main topics that are addressed for

"Deployment changes things for both Soldiers and family members."

***-- CH (Maj.) Larry Holland
3d ACR chaplain***

Soldiers, spouses, and children.

First of all, Soldiers deployed to a combat environment can experience tremendous changes physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. Going from an environment that requires a constant state of hyper vigilance and situational awareness for survival to peaceful surroundings can be very difficult. All of a sudden the Soldier is without the weapon that has been literally attached to them 24/7. Closed-in, crowded places such as a mall, traffic jams on the highway, or sudden loud noises can be unsettling.

It takes time to adjust to new surroundings and situations. Remember that this is normal and will usually pass in a relatively short time. Once again awareness and patience are key.

Many Soldiers have seen or done things that can be difficult to think about or talk about, especially to those who have not had similar experiences.

It is important for the Soldier and those closest to them to be aware of any symptoms of post traumatic stress. These can include difficulty sleeping, eating, sudden mood swings, isolation, and frequent excessive use of

alcohol. These behaviors may be temporary, but if they continue they need to be addressed and may require professional help.

There is no weakness in seeking such help and many times simply talking to a trusted professional who will listen without judgment can bring about immediate, positive results. This can be a chaplain or pastor, a medical or mental health provider, or a close relative, friend, or mentor. It is amazing how helpful and therapeutic just talking in a safe and trusting setting can be.

The main thing is not to let things go and "stuff" them or hope they will go away if ignored. Soldiers' spouses and significant others also experience many changes during deployments.

See "Chaplain," Page 35.

As we enter our eleventh month in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than 800 Troopers have chosen to continue their service to the regiment and our great nation.

The re-enlistments of these young heroes allowed the regiment to lead all units in III Corps and Fort Hood for Fiscal Year 2008.

On Oct. 4, Task Force Iron Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, re-enlisted 43 Soldiers from the Brave Rifles footprint.

During his comments to the re-enlisting Soldiers he spoke about the fact that we are the only military that takes an oath to a piece of paper. A very important piece of paper, the Constitution of the United States, an ideal that gives all our citizens a voice in our democratic process and freedoms we all enjoy.

As we enter the final months of our deployment, our Soldiers need to think about choosing to remain with the team. Either the regimental team or the Army team, continuing to serve is a decision each Soldier must make.

Soldiers choosing to remain with the Brave Rifles have the opportunity to take classes with a local college or trade school upon return to Fort Hood. For those desiring to re-enlist and exercise movement options, see your servicing career counselor to find out about duty assignments that are available for your specific military occupational specialty.

The opportunity to retrain into a new career field may also be available based on individual qualifications. In addition to these options most Soldiers can qualify for a selective re-enlistment bonus.

All Soldiers should make a

trip to see their career counselor to determine the best available options for them and their futures.

I would like to personally thank all the Soldiers for their service to the regiment, the Army, and the United States.

I know that not everyone will choose to continue their service and I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.



Pfc. Adam Blazak

Soldiers from FOB Marez and LSA Diamondback, located in the city of Mosul, Iraq, raise their right hands and take the re-enlistment oath as Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, commanding general for Multi-National Division – North, presides over the ceremony. More than 30 Soldiers came together to re-enlist during the Oct. 4 ceremony.

“Thunder” From Page 11. —

truck to be used as a suicide car bomb. The Ninewah Operations Support Battalion and Killer Troop also foiled an enemy attempt to tunnel and lay explosives under the Provincial Hall.

The combined effort turned a potential catastrophe into a success story and embarrassment for the enemy.

Iraqi army and police continue to expand their control into new areas to include Badoush village and the western towns of Ressala and Seegar. The ISF have adopted the cavalry way and are essentially settling the “Wild West.”

Their increased abilities and emboldened attitude reflect the hard work and sacrifices of Soldiers in Thunder Squadron. Their independence rightfully generates a sentiment of pride

shared by the Troopers and families of Thunder Squadron. It is impossible to measure how much our efforts have contributed to the security and progress in northern Iraq.

Signs of change are everywhere here in Iraq. Soldiers are refreshed by the cooler weather, reinvigorated by the Iraqi Security Forces’ determination, and encouraged by the movement of equipment.

Thunder Squadron smashed the 11 month barrier in September, leaned forward, and is now sprinting toward the finish.

Sadly, we found ourselves paying homage to one of Thunder Squadron’s fallen heroes. Spc. Jorge Feliznieve of Support Platoon, Havoc Troop, was tragically killed in a vehicle accident on Sinjar mountain during a resupply mission Aug. 28.

By all accounts Spc. Feliznieve was a quintessential professional; a soft spoken man of action. A citizen of the Dominican Republic, Spc. Feliznieve paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

As we depart with our fallen brother, we ask that you keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. We also ask you to reflect on the virtues that this incredible man embodied. We are all better for having known him.

Again, we are eternally grateful for the support from the families of Thunder Squadron. Your undying strength has enabled the Soldiers to continue to pursue their mission with increased tenacity. Our actions are a reflection of your love and determination. Our successes are yours.

THUNDER!
Thunder 6

“Muleskinner,” From Page 13. —

passing with flying colors. This past month the Chem Dogs were also able to do some chemical training, taking part in a chemical exercise to practice MOS skills they have not been utilized during the deployment.

HHT remained busy with the staff sections and support operations, planning and executing current operations while simultaneously planning out the squadron’s return to Fort Hood.

In order to release a little stress and have some fun, the Troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop organized a flag football team to compete in the MWR league here on Marez.

The team did well, making it into the playoffs

where they finished second in their division and third overall.

As the squadron gets closer to the last 100 days of the deployment, the troops and company leadership have the challenging job of keeping their Soldiers focused on conducting missions while preparing to hand off the mission to our replacements and send equipment home.

This time period is more critical than the first 100 days. We must continue to fight complacency and ensure that we finish the deployment completing all missions to standard, ensuring that we all return home together.

Muleskinners!
Muleskinner 6



STAY CAV, STAY ARMY!

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN



SPC Jorge Feliznieve
HHT, 3/3 ACR
Aug. 28, 2008



CPT Michael Medders
HHT, 2/3 ACR
Sept. 24, 2008

“Chaplain,” From Page 32. —————

Most have had to assume all the responsibility of running things at home day to day.

This leads to new and necessary levels of independence. They may be ready and willing to hand many if not all responsibilities back over to the returning Soldier because they need a break. They also may want to continue handling things the way in which they have grown accustomed. Again these changes can be positive and even better than the way things were done before deployment.

The key is understanding and appreciation of what they have done during the difficult time of separation. There is no need for the Soldier to go charging in ready to take over and expect that things will automatically return to the way they were. Each person needs to take things slowly and communicate expectations and desires about everything from romance to household chores.

This will ensure a much smoother transition. Once again, do not let things get out of control. If communication breaks down, do not hesitate to seek counseling to help resolve issues.

Last of all, let's talk about the children. The changes they have gone through vary with age and personality, but here are some possible reactions to expect. Infants may be anxious, shy, or even fearful of the other parent whom they are unfamiliar with, but bonding can occur in a very short time with love and patience. Toddlers may go from shy and

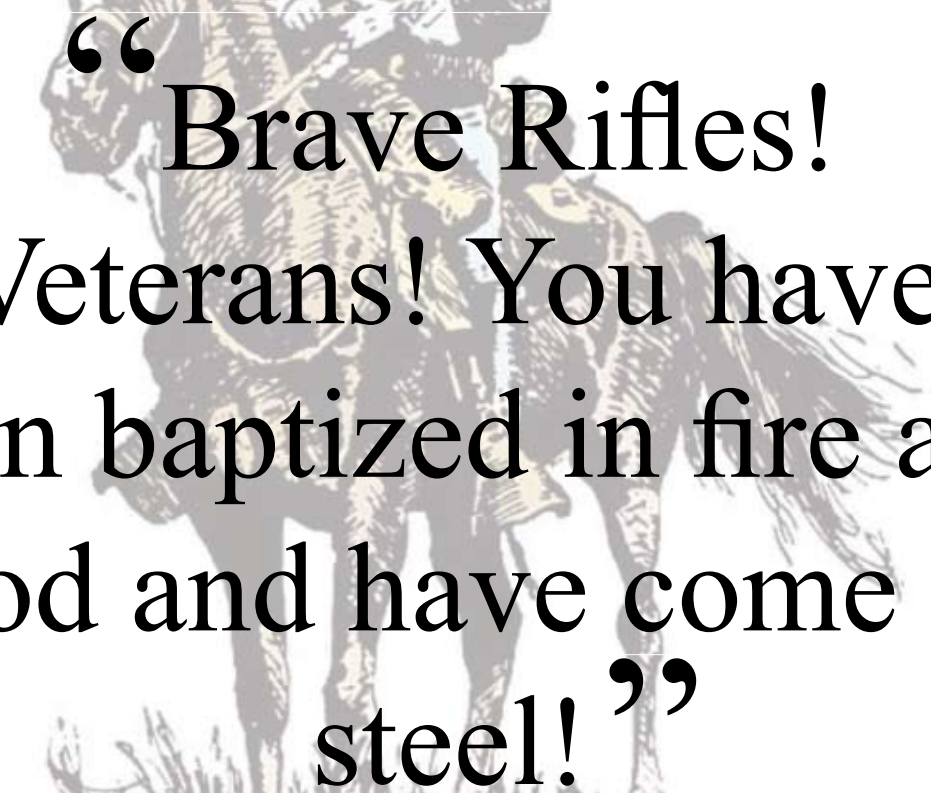
temperamental to excited and playful and back again many times. A lot of this behavior is simply what many call the “terrible twos” and may even be experienced by both parents.

Young children will most likely be so excited and happy to have their mother or father back home that they want to be with them and play with them all the time. Spend as much quality time with them as possible and be sure to spend individual time with each child if there is more than one.

Preteens and young teenagers are going through tremendous changes anyway and may vacillate often between happiness and indifference or even anger. Older teenagers and adolescents may act indifferent and as though the deployment did not affect them. They lead busy social lives and may need time to adjust to the returning parent back into their world. In general most any response from any child can be seen as normal and usually nothing to worry about. If however, behavior continues to seem unusually abnormal or dangerous, seek counseling.

These are just a few of the things that everyone needs to be aware of and realize, that though things will not be the “same” as they were 15 months before, they can still be good, if not better than ever. It will take as much conscious effort to get through reintegration and reunion as it has taken to get through separation. The key is that we all work together and remember that much love, time, and understanding patience is needed for everyone.

God Bless you all with a safe and happy reunion.



“Brave Rifles!
Veterans! You have
been baptized in fire and
blood and have come out
steel!”